

الوحي
THE REVELATION

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Al-Wahy (The Divine Revelation)

After Huda finished her 'Isha' prayer, she took out the Qur'ân and read some Verses. It was her habit to do this after every prayer. She closed the Qur'ân and then put it back in its special place.

She then sat musing. The Qur'ân is the Word of Allâh the Almighty, and His Messenger Muhammad ﷺ is the one who taught us the Qur'ân. But how did the Qur'ân reach our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ? When? And where?

Huda thought for a long time without reaching an answer. She then went to her cousin Samir and asked him, "We know that the Qur'ân is the Word of Allâh, and our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ is the one who brought the Qur'ân to us. But how was the Qur'ân revealed to our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ? When? And How?"

Samir said, "I'll tell you. The Qur'ân came

down to our Prophet ﷺ by *Wahy*.”

Huda then asked, “But what is *Wahy*?”

Samir said, “Oh, you are very persistent. You want to know which chicken laid which egg and where the chicken came from. You must believe that the Noble Qur’ân was brought down to our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ by *Wahy* and you don’t have to know more than this. Don’t you know that it is forbidden to ask about anything in religion. Religion is taken by faith only.”

Huda said, “You are wrong Samir. I must know everything in the religion. Besides, it is not prohibited to ask questions.”

“No, it is prohibited,” said Samir.

“No, it is not. Let’s go and ask my father,” said Huda.

They both went to her father’s room. Her father was in the middle of writing an article

for a science magazine. She knocked at the door and he told her to come in. She and Samir went in, and then she said apologetically, “I hope we are not bothering you, father!”

“No, my daughter, what do you both want?” her father asked.

“I asked my cousin Samir how the Qur’ân was brought down to the Messenger Muhammad ﷺ. He told me that it was brought down by *Wahy*. Then I asked about *Wahy* and he said that it is prohibited to ask about everything in religion and we should believe without asking questions. Is this true?” Huda asked.

Her father replied, “No, Samir. The religion should be understood. Everything in our religion, Islam, is known and understood. It is not allowed for anyone to stay ignorant of any of the facts of the religion. A person should

ask, read books and learn. Our religion, my children, is great and we should know everything about it. Now, sit so I may tell you the story of the revelation of the Noble Qur'ân to our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

“The Noble Qur'ân was brought down to our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ through the angel of *Wahy*, I mean the angel Jibreel عليه السلام. Jibreel used to come to Allâh's Messenger Muhammad ﷺ in two forms. Sometimes he would come secretly and make a sound like the ringing of a bell, so the Prophet ﷺ would be ready to listen to the *Wahy* (Revelation).”

“Did you say like the ringing of a bell?” asked Samir.

“Yes, it sounded like a bell ringing.” said Huda's father.

“But how did our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ understand the *Wahy*?” asked Huda.

Her father replied, “Jibreel would come to him and recite the Verse. The Prophet ﷺ then learned it and memorized it.”

Huda asked, “Did the Companions hear the sound of *Wahy*, I mean the bell ringing, father?”

“Yes, but they used to hear it like the buzzing of bees,” her father replied. “And sometimes Jibreel would take the form of a man in clean clothing. Two times he came looking like one of the Prophet's Companions, with a handsome face called Dihyah Al-Kalbi. He taught Allâh's Messenger the Verses of the Qur'ân and other words of wisdom, then he would leave. He came once looking like a bedouin in bright white clothes with black hair. The Companions saw him, but did not recognize him. He asked Allâh's Messenger ﷺ some questions and the Messenger ﷺ answered him. Then he left. After he left, Allâh's Messenger ﷺ asked his Companions,

Muhammad ﷺ to read so he would prepare himself for reading, and to focus all his attention on what the angel Jibreel عليه السلام may say to him.”

Both Samir and Huda replied, “Now we understand.”

Huda's father said, “When our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said to Jibreel عليه السلام, ‘I cannot read.’ Jibreel pressed the Prophet ﷺ to his chest and squeezed him so tight that the Prophet ﷺ thought he would pass out. Then Jibreel released him. Jibreel عليه السلام told him a second time, ‘Read!’ Muhammad ﷺ repeated, ‘I cannot read.’ Jibreel squeezed him very hard again. He then released him and told him again, ‘Read!’ Muhammad ﷺ again said, ‘I cannot read.’ And again Jibreel عليه السلام took him and squeezed him very hard. Then Jibreel released our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and said:

﴿ أَقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ
الْأَكْرَمُ ۝ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۝ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴾

[العلق: ١-٥]

“Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists). He created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught by the pen, He has taught man that which he know not.” (96:1-5)

“Allâh's Messenger ﷺ then repeated those Verses. When the Prophet finished reciting, the angel Jibreel عليه السلام disappeared and left him. Allâh's Messenger ﷺ was so afraid that he was trembling with fear and his heart was beating very hard and fast. The Prophet ﷺ could not stay in the cave. He rushed back to Makkah. When he went home and knocked on the door. His wife opened the door for him. He was very tired and very afraid. He laid down on his bed and said to his wife, ‘Cover me, ‘Cover me,’ so

Muhammad ﷺ. Also that he might advise her husband sincerely,” said her father.

“Thank you father,” she said.

Her father then continued the story, “Waraqah asked, ‘What happened to you nephew?’ Muhammad ﷺ responded, ‘I was in the cave of Hira’ and a man that I have never seen something similar to, came to me and said: Read! And I said I cannot read. He squeezed me very hard until I could not bear anymore, then he released me and said again: Read! I said I cannot read. He squeezed me for the second time so hard that I could not bear anymore, then he released me and said again, Read! I then said, I cannot read. He squeezed me a third time so hard that I could not bear anymore, then he released me and said:

﴿ أَقْرَأْ بِأَسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ۝ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ۝ أَقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ
الْأَكْرَمُ ۝ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ۝ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴾

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‘I was so afraid that I returned home to my wife.’ Waraqah said, ‘Have no fear son. The one who came to you was the angel in charge of *Wahy*. He is the same one Allâh sent to Prophet Musa عليه السلام before you. You verily are the Prophet of this nation. I wish I were a strong young man to support you. I wish that I could live until your people would drive you out from Makkah.’ A very surprised Muhammad ﷺ said, ‘My people driving me out of my town, Makkah? What did I do so that my people would turn against me and drive me out of my town?’ Waraqah responded, ‘Yes, my nephew. They will drive you out from your town. Anyone who came